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高端人物 TOP (I)

BILL CLINTON — 克林顿

从娃娃州长到绯闻总统

本书为您展示：

邻家男孩如何成长为美国最有魅力的男人

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Biography

Bill CLINTON

Michael Benson



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序 言

《高端人物》丛书是在全社会学好外语迎奥运的热潮中从美国引进的人物传记系列丛书。该套图书主要针对高中及大学在校生以及同等水平的英语爱好者。

2005年我国大学英语四六级考试进行了重大改革，改革为大学英语教学提出了一个明确的思路：教师和学生要从应试教学和学习向提高英语基础素质和应用能力方向转变。英语学习图书市场也悄然发生了变化：考试类图书出版趋于理性和谨慎；而有助于提高学生英语应用能力的阅读类、听力类、口语类、写作类等图书渐渐热销起来；还有一个重要的变化是，读原汁原味的原版外语读物渐成趋势并成为迅速提高阅读能力的一个有效途径。

我认为该系列丛书有四个方面的明显特点，值得大家一读。

一、原汁原味，质量可靠

本丛书是国内同类阅读读物中为数不多的原版引进图书。作为多年的美国教学辅助读物，其选材精细、内容成熟、编写严谨、质量可靠。特别是引进后的图书，完整保持了原汁原味的美语风格，使读者能够与全真的英文零距离接触，有助于同学们通过阅读改变语言思维习惯，迅速提高英文阅读能力。

二、在学习英语的同时了解西方历史和文化

本丛书选取的是8位当代西方国家著名人物的传记，他们的成长历程，（如：普京、布莱尔，从一个平民孩子到一个大国领袖；罗琳，从一个贫困潦倒的女作家到当今世界上最成功的女人之一等）为我们了解西方的政治背景和社会环境提供了一个窗口。

三、对疑难词句进行了注解

本系列丛书，对疑难词句进行了认真的注解，并针对书中的内容设置了问题，提供了答案。使同学们在时间充裕的情况下可以进行精读；也有助于单词量偏低的同学阅读顺畅。

四、有同步听力素材，免费下载

我们还邀请美籍专家对精彩片段进行了录音，配套的音频产品可以在网上免费下载。这是英语阅读类图书中的一个创举，有利于同学们阅读与听力同步提高，互相促进。

《高端人物》丛书，语言纯正，是集阅读、听力为一体的不可多得的好书，将对学习英语的青少年朋友们大有裨益。

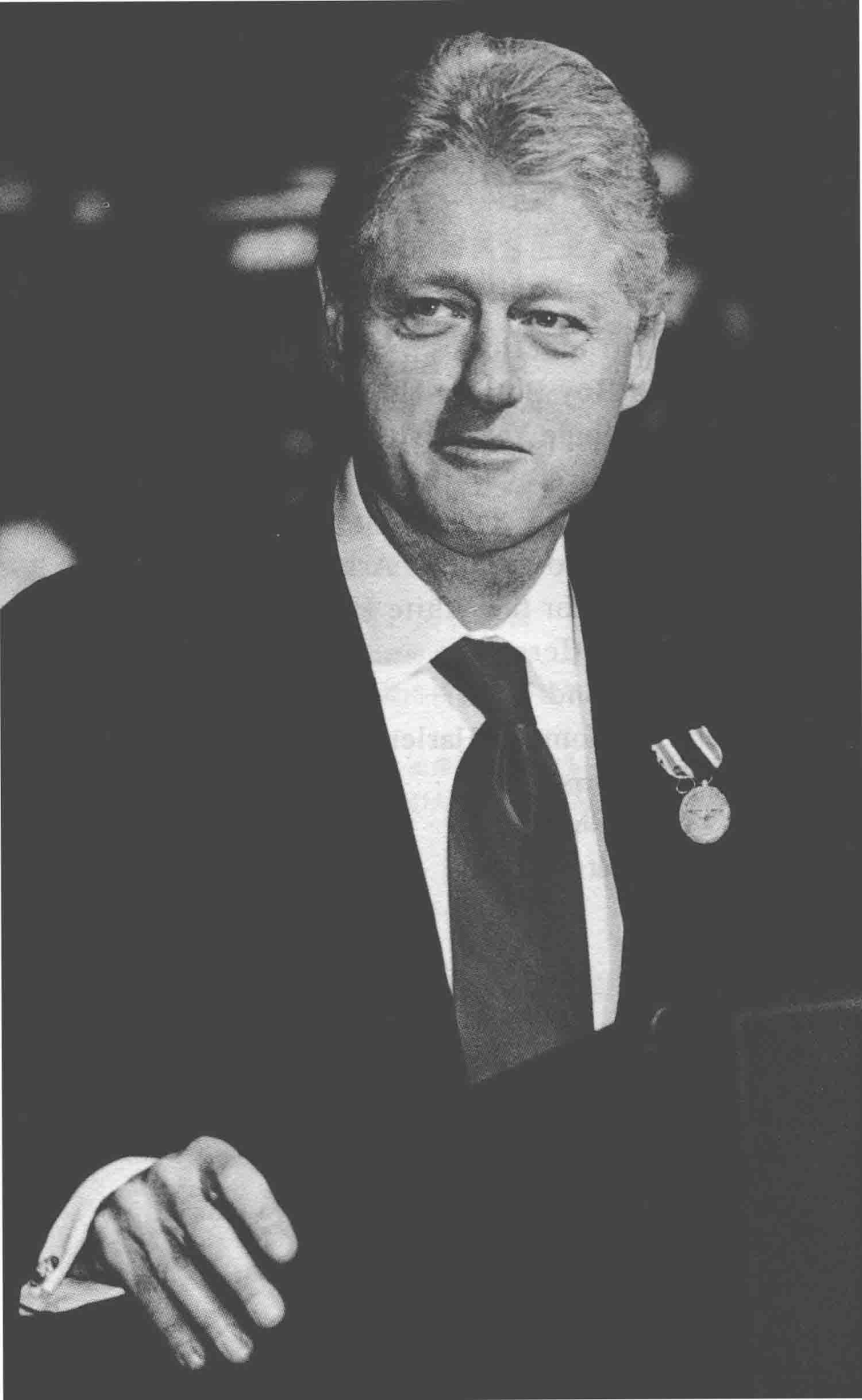
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前言

1993年，年近46岁的克林顿当选为美国第四十二届总统，成为美国历史上第二位最年轻的总统。（肯尼迪当选美国总统时只有43岁）此外，他还是美国历史上第一位二战之后出生的总统。

克林顿并非生来就具有别人望尘莫及的得天独厚的优势，他能取得今天的辉煌完全是靠自己从零开始的艰苦努力。



INTRODUCTION

"We must provide for our nation the way a family provides for its children."

— Bill Clinton, first inaugural address, 1993

At age 46, Bill Clinton became the youngest man to be elected president of the United States since John F. Kennedy, who was elected in 1960 at the age of 43. Clinton was the first person born after World War II (1939-1945) to be elected to the nation's highest office. This made him the first member of the generation known as the baby boomers¹ to make it to the White House.

In his inauguration speech² on January 21, 1993, Clinton said:

When our founders boldly declared America's independence to the world and our purposes to the Almighty³, they knew that America, to endure, would have to change.

Not change for change's sake, but change to preserve America's ideals —life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness. Though we march to the music of our time, our mission is timeless. Each generation of Americans must define what it means to be an American.... We must do what no generation has had to do before. We must invest more in our own people, in their jobs, in their future, and at the same time cut our massive debt. We must do so in a world in which we must compete for every opportunity. It will not be easy; it will require sacrifice. But it can be done, and done fairly, not choosing the sacrifice for its own sake, but for our own sake.

Compassion, as always, was the key to Bill Clinton's policies.

Bill Clinton was the president of the United States, the commander in chief of the U.S. military, the leader of the Free World. One might think that Clinton was born in a rich family —with a silver spoon in his mouth, as they say— with all of the advantages that life can give. But nothing could be further from the truth. All of Bill Clinton's advantages were earned through hard work. He came from humble beginnings.

INTRODUCTION

- 1 baby boomer —— 在婴儿潮时期出生的一员
- 2 inauguration speech —— 就职演说
- 3 Almighty —— 全能的上帝

QUESTIONS

- 1 Who was the youngest man to be elected president of the United States?
- 2 What was the difference of Clinton with the other presidents?
- 3 What were Clinton's America's ideals?
- 4 As the president of the United States, it is not only the head of the county, what more does it mean?
- 5 Where were Clinton's advantages from?



第一章

1946年8月19日，比尔·克林顿比预产期提前一个月出生于阿肯色的一家医院。生父于三个月前死于车祸，所以这个早产儿还是个遗腹子。

比尔从小就是个乖孩子，学习努力，衣着整齐，周末自己去教堂做礼拜。那时他并没有将来从政或成为美国总统的雄心壮志和远大抱负。后来是1963年的一次优秀学生模拟政府夏令营活动改变了他的一生。



CHAPTER ONE

A BOY BORN IN HOPE

"My grandparents had a lot to do with my early commitment to learning. They taught me to count and read. I was reading little books when I was three."

— Bill Clinton

In the early daylight hours of August 19, 1946, William Jefferson Blythe¹ IV was born, one month prematurely², at Julia Chester Hospital in Hope, Arkansas³, population 8,000. The name on his birth certificate reads William Jefferson Blythe IV.

He was named after his father, who had been killed in a one-car crash three months before his son was born. The baby future president would be raised by his mother and his grandparents.

When Bill was still a baby, his mother, Virginia⁴, met a local businessman named Roger Clinton⁵ at her father's grocery store. Roger's nickname was "Dude⁶," and he owned a car dealership in Hope. Two years later, Virginia Blythe moved to New Orleans⁷ for two years to study to be a nurse anesthetist⁸. She needed a way to support herself and her small son.

During that time, Bill stayed with his grandparents in Hope. Bill's grandfather's general store served both black and white people. There were not many stores in Arkansas during the 1950s that could make that claim. It was through his grandfather, who taught him to respect people regardless of their color or religion, that Bill learned his lifelong hatred of racism and bigotry⁹.

In 1950, when Bill was four, Virginia married Roger Clinton. From then on, Bill called Roger "Daddy," and that was how he thought of him. By first grade, Bill was known as Bill Clinton in school, although Roger, who was out most nights, never spent much time with Bill. Roger Clinton never officially adopted the boy either.

Donna Taylor¹⁰, who went to kindergarten with Bill Clinton, remembers him when he was five: "Some people like to be with other children. He was like that. He was always right there. Almost obnoxious¹¹. He was in the center of everything."

When Bill was six, the Clintons moved from Hope to

Hot Springs, Arkansas. When Bill was ten, Roger and Virginia had a son, Bill's half brother. They named him Roger Clinton Jr.

Going to Church Alone

Bill was religious as a child, even though his household was not. His grandparents had given him early training in the Bible, and later a devout housekeeper encouraged his churchgoing. At eight Bill would get himself up on Sunday mornings, put on his best suit and, carrying his Bible, walk the half mile to the Park Place Baptist Church¹².

In high school, Bill was an honor student and socially popular. He played the saxophone¹³ in a jazz band and was considered by many to be the best sax player in the city. He even competed to be named the best in the state. Clinton later wrote in a letter to a friend about his youth in Hot Springs: "No one ever enjoyed being kids more than we did—it would be pretty hard to crowd more living in."

Troubles at Home

His happy life at school, however, was countered by a not-so-pleasant life at home. Bill's stepfather was an alcoholic¹⁴ who became abusive¹⁵ when he was drunk. As